



EUROPEAN
CITIZEN SCIENCE
ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2015

Preliminary Version

October 23rd 2015

ECSA Headquarters

c/o Museum für Naturkunde Berlin
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Our Mission is to connect citizens and science through fostering active participation.

Our Vision is that, in 2020, citizens in Europe are valued and empowered as key actors in advancing knowledge and innovation and thus supporting sustainable development in our world. Citizen Science is a recognized, promoted and funded approach to foster scientific literacy and the democratization of scientific expertise, to increase the social relevance and sustainable impact of research and to improve the evidence base for environment, biodiversity and climate change policy in Europe and globally.

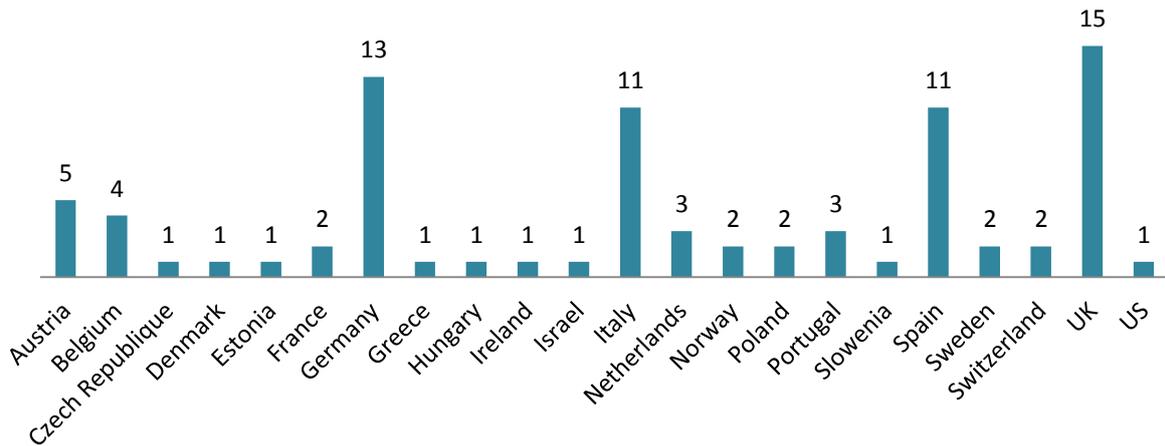
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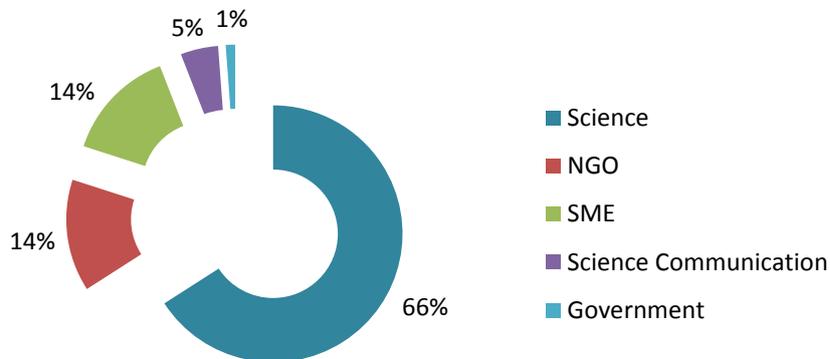
Growing Membership

From November 2014 to October 2015, ECSA has increased its formal members from 37 to currently 85. They span 22 countries, of which 19 are members of the European Union. In addition, ECSA has a vast number of supporters in Europe and beyond.

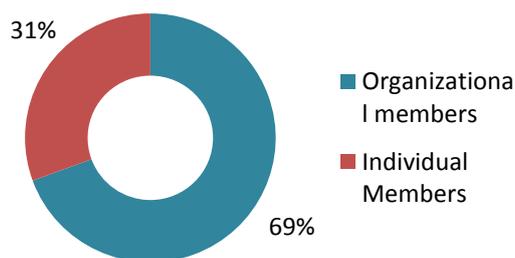
ECSA Geography, Oct 2015



Members' Sectors



Membership Types



In consultation with our members and supporters ECSA has refined its membership structure and developed various **options to engage with the organisation** over the last year. Each option is associated with a set of benefits tailored for the different target groups of ECSA.

(1) Formal membership – for organizations or individuals

Formal members realize activities through participation in ECSA Working Groups and shape the way the organisation is developing. Membership is coupled to a yearly membership fee (2015: 100€ for organizations including participation of 3 representatives, 40€ for individuals, discount for students, seniors and unemployed available 25€) and offers the following benefits:

- Participating in and voting at General Assembly
- Possibility for representative to be elected to Executive Board and Board of Directors
- Participating in other ECSA events
- Logo on ECSA Website
- Promoting news and events through the ECSA website and newsletter
- Presenting activities on ECSA blog
- Promoting own work through ECSA at events (e.g. Green Week, CSA conference etc.)
- Present own CS activities via ECSA homepage with short description in English (planned)
- Participating in ECSA Working Groups
- Contributing to the elaboration of ECSA documents, e.g. policy papers
- Contributing to the development of open-access resources for the field, e.g. guides
- Carrying out joint European Citizen Science projects (planned)
- Access to members-only internal mailing list for information, grant application requests etc.
- Access to ECSA wiki for collaborative work to discuss and edit documents together
- Access to internal part of homepage with directory of members with contact details (planned)

(2) Joining the ECSA network of supporters

Supporters closely follow ECSA activities and are welcome to participate in activities. Becoming a supporter is open for organizations, free of charge and offers the following benefits:

- Participating in the General Assembly and other ECSA events
- Receiving ECSA newsletter
- Logo on ECSA Website
- Participating in ECSA Working Groups as observer
- Contributing to the development of open-access resources for the field, e.g. guides
- Contributing to the implementation of joint European Citizen Science projects (planned)

(3) Open partnership

Tailored option available upon request to the ECSA Steering Committee.

(4) Visiting expert or internship

Stages at ECSA Headquarters for up to a month to advise ECSA on a specific task or activity in specific areas of expertise while getting to know the association from the inside (open for guest researchers that can fund their stay and travel costs – we hope to be able to support this in the future). Internships at ECSA to learn about the organisation and contribute to its activities. These options are open on request for specific profiles only and depending on available capacities at Headquarters.

Milestones

11/14 – 2nd General Assembly, Berlin

The last General Assembly took important decisions that set the course for the organization building of the coming months: The statutes were adapted to include a refined purpose of the association expressing more clearly the aims of the association and how we will work towards achieving them. The General Assembly elected a Board of Directors to shape the work of ECSA as well as Prof. Dr. Jacqueline McGlade, UNEP, as first member of the Advisory Board for strategic guidance. The Assembly also installed the ECSA Steering Committee as main executive body of ECSA.

01/15 – ECSA Steering Committee established

The Steering Committee comprises the Executive Board, Board of Directors as well as Chairs of the Working Groups. It executes the work of the association. Since its founding meeting in January 2015, The Steering Committee has held monthly web conferences and face-to-face meetings to jointly discuss and develop the ECSA governance structure, key documents (e.g. Strategy, Membership Terms and Conditions), events and advice the Executive Board on membership applications.

04/15 – Non-profit Status

Upon the registration of the amended statutes, ECSA finally has been granted non-profit status in Germany. With this, it now has a tax-privileged status and can accept donations.

05/15 – ECSA Strategy

In May, the Steering Committee adopted the ECSA Strategy, which outlines three main areas to concentrate the work of the association in the coming years: (1) Promoting Sustainability through Citizen Science, (2) Building a Think Tank for Citizen Science, and (3) Developing Participatory Methods for Cooperation, Empowerment & Impact. The Strategy reinforces our commitment to a broad definition of Citizen Science and also proposes refined vision and mission statements.

06/15 – Funding Strategy and Documents

In response to a growing demand to enter consortia, several key documents concerning the financial architecture of the association have been adopted: the ECSA Fundraising Strategy outlining our aims regarding different funding streams, the Terms of Engagement in Project Proposals with criteria and procedures for ECSA to enter in funding bids, as well as a List of Sample Activities.

07/15 – Communication Strategy

In July, the Steering Committee adopted the ECSA Communication Strategy which had been elaborated on a meeting of the Working Group in Zurich.

09/15 – Rules of Procedure

In September, benefiting from much discussion and refinement, the Steering Committee approved the ECSA Rules of Procedure, an aggregate document stipulating a set of guiding rules for the operation of the association that are not addressed in the ECSA statutes. The Rules of Procedure include provisions on ECSA membership (admission procedures, withdrawal, etc.), the composition and role of the Steering Committee, the work of the ECSA Secretariat (=Headquarters), ECSA participation in fundraising activities, Advisory Board nomination, and representation of ECSA. The Rules of Procedure can be adapted to changing circumstances more easily.

ECSA Working Groups

Sharing Best Practice and Building Capacity

This working group aims to promote high quality citizen science by sharing existing examples of good practice, developing practitioner guides and other documents to support the citizen science practitioner community, and bringing together all parties involved in citizen science to develop partnerships, share resources and experiences, and build capacity within the sector.

Chair: **Lucy Robinson** - Citizen Science Programme Manager at Natural History Museum London, UK

Members:

Ana Casino, Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities, Belgium

Bart de Lathouwer, Open Geospatial Consortium

Aletta Bonn, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research, Germany

Chris Higgins, COBWEB – Citizen Observatory Web, UK

Gregoire Lois, Musee National d'Histoire Naturelle, France

Muki Haklay, University College London, UK

Sarah West, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Alison Dyke, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Rachel Pateman, Stockholm Environment Institute, University of York, UK

Malte Timppte, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

Jenny Cousins, EarthWatch Institute, UK

The working group has focused its activities this year on the development of the Ten Principles of Citizen Science that were drafted in 2014. In early 2015, continued revisions of the principles took place, developing the document iteratively until it represented a shared vision of what the ECSA community collectively believes represents good practice in citizen science. The Ten Principles were finalised in July 2015 and presented at the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Montpellier, France in August 2015. They were also presented at the Australian Citizen Science Association conference in Melbourne, Australia in August 2015, the Annual General Meeting of the UK Registrars Group in October 2015 and were made available online on the ECSA website.

The working group chair has also given significant support to the working group on Communication, Marketing, Fundraising and Events, in particular to support the International Conference which will be a key opportunity for sharing good practice and building capacity in the sector in 2016.

Data, Tools and Technology

This group is trying to formalize a common understanding of interests in the Citizen Science data space, analysing problems that Citizen Science projects face regarding data, such as interoperability, data reliability (e.g. how Citizen Science data can be trusted and plugged into environmental regulation and monitoring requirements from governments), privacy, or data intellectual property rights. To do so, the group is establishing collaborations with other technical organizations (such as the Open Geospatial Consortium –OGC-) or other Citizen Science Associations (CSA, ACSA).

Chair: **Jaume Piera** - Researcher at Institute of Marine Sciences at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain

Members:

Arne Berre, Sintef, Norway

Benjamin Dauth, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Bernat Claramunt, CREAM, Spain

Christos Arvanitidis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Elzbieta Woloszynska-Wisniewska, UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre, Poland

Emmanouella Panteri, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Florian Heigl, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Hai-Ying Liu, Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Norway

Israel Peer, GlueCAD Ltd – Biodiversity IT, Israel

Jamie Williams, Environment Systems, UK

Jari Silander, Finnish Environmental Institute (SKYE), Finland

Johann Zaller, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Linda See, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Luigi Ceccaroni, 1000001 Labs, Spain

Stratos Arampatzis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Thanos Dailianis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

Veljo Runnel, University of Tartu, Estonia

Vita Lanfranchi, University of Sheffield, UK

Activities:

- Establishing collaborations with different groups for different technological topics
- Interoperability: ACSA, CASA, OGC, Wilson Center (USA)
- Data Intellectual property rights: GBIF

Policy, Strategy, Partnerships

Chair: **Martin Brocklehurst** - KempleyGREEN Consultants, UK

Members:

Björn Huwe, University of Potsdam, Germany

David Slawson, OPAL, Imperial College London, UK

Elizabeth Tyson, Woodrow Wilson Centre, US

Katherine Mathieson, British Science Association, UK

Hilary Geoghegan, University of Reading

Marc Lipinski, National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Micheál Lehane, Environment Protection Agency, Ireland

Patricia Tiago, University of Lisbon – Biodiversity4All, Portugal

Poppy Lakeman Fraser, OPAL, Imperial College London, UK

Roeland Samson, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Simone Branchini, University of Bologna, Italy

Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Early in the year we refreshed Membership of the Group to expand and accurately reflect the growing membership of ECSA. We were delighted that Elizabeth Tyson from the Woodrow Wilson Centre in the USA could join the group to link our work on Citizen Science with that taking part in the USA. She was able to brief the Working Group on the support now provided by the Obama White House Administration for Citizen Science in the United States. We set up bi-monthly meetings using the excellent Adobe Connect IT service provided by the ECSA secretariat and after a few technical teething problems developed a work programme for the year ahead.

We have during the year consolidated our relationship with the European Commission. We have met and briefed Policy Staff on both the development of ECSA and Citizen Science projects in the ENV.F3 Knowledge, Risks & Urban Environment Unit, Environment Directorate General. Two meetings took place this year and as a result we were invited to address policy staff drawn from DG Environment, DG Climate, DG Communications, DG Research and DG Regional and Urban Policy at a lunch time seminar in October. We were also invited to participate and present at the European Union Green Week on Nature and Biodiversity. Key inputs at these events were made by Roeland Samson, University of Antwerp, Belgium; Fermin Serrano from Societize & Ibercivis, Spain; Johann Zaller and his team Florian Heigl and Daniel Dörler from the Institute of Zoology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria; Christoph Keller Leiden Observatory, Leiden University, the Netherlands and Susanne Hecker Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany. ECSA staff and many volunteers supported the ECSA stand at Green Week and provided material and staffed the stand for three days during June. This was a major success in raising the policy profile of ECSA. Particular thanks go to Claudia Göbel, Coordinator ECSA Headquarters and to the Natural History Museum of Berlin for providing support, posters and flyers about ECSA. Imperial College (OPAL) also provided material on their programmes which was extremely well received by visitors to the stand. Virtually all the material we took to Brussels was taken by visitors to the stand. The Policy group is hugely grateful to everyone who took part.

Behind the scenes the group put in place the following draft policy papers:

- Citizen Science as part of EU Policy Delivery – Outlining our ideas on how we would like to see Citizen Science made an integral part of EU Policy delivery; and
- ECSA Policy Position on the Societize White Paper on Citizen Science for Europe.

We commissioned a screening study from Izabela Stacewicz PhD Researcher at Reading University into all EU Environmental Directives to review the current obligations for monitoring and the opportunity for Citizen Science to be part of the formal EU monitoring programmes. The study reviewed 11 Directives and will provide a useful framework for our ongoing discussions with the Commission.

Finally we provided an ECSA response to the EU public consultation as part of the fitness check of the EU nature legislation (Birds and Habitats Directives). These are key Directives responsible for the conservation and protection of wildlife across the EU. Copies of our response were provided to all ECSA Members who were also encouraged to respond to the Commission.

My thanks go to all the members of the working group and the volunteers who have supported us who have made it such a memorable year and laid the foundations for ECSA to have a significant impact in the year ahead.

Communication, Marketing, Fundraising and Events

The Working Group has created 3 Sub-committees in order to address more specific topics in a more focussed way and to make a better defined offer to other ECSA members to contribute their skills and experiences.

Sub-Committee on Funding and Marketing

Chair: **Marisa Ponti** - Assistant Professor in the Division of Learning, Communication and IT at University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Members:

Carmen Madalina Cozma, ANPRO, Rumania
Jaume Piera, Institute of Marine Sciences, Spain
Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany
Martin Brocklehurst, KempleyGREEN Consultants, UK
Muki Haklay, University College London, UK
Zen Makuch, Imperial College London, UK

This subcommittee started in June 2015. The main accomplishment is the submission of a COST Action proposal to support a Pan-European network connecting proposers from a range of disciplinary domains.

Sub-Committee on Communication and Events

Chair: **Pia Viviani** - Deputy Director and national project leader of Foundation Science et Cité, Switzerland

Members:

Daniel Dörler, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
Florian Heigl, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria
Josep Perelló, University of Barcelona, Spain
Monique Luckas, Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany
Muki Haklay, University College London, UK
Poppy Lakeman Fraser, OPAL, Imperial College London, UK
Simone Branchini, University of Bologna, Italy
Susanne Hecker, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
Thorsten Witt, Science in Dialogue, Germany

Activities:

Meeting in Zurich on the 27th of May at the ETH Zurich. A communication strategy was adopted with the following objectives:

- Provide a platform for knowledge exchange and networking
- Distribute news in citizen science
- Publish best practice examples of citizen science projects
- Facilitate transnational collaboration of existing, but also new citizen science projects not only in natural sciences, but also in social sciences and humanities
- Promote Citizen Science within research and funding organizations
- Expand the ECSA network

Further it was decided to facilitate communication within ECSA and to non-ECSA-members by the use of social media. Josep Perelló volunteered to prepare the ECSA GA in Barcelona in October.

Committee on International Conference

Professor at German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) | Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ) | Friedrich -Schiller-University Jena, Germany

Members:

Susanne Hecker, UFZ/iDiv, Germany (overall coordination)

Andrea Sforzi, Museo di Storia Naturale della Maremma, Italy

Claudia Göbel, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

Franz Hölker, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries (IGB), Germany

Heribert Hofer, Institute of Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Germany

Jennifer Shirk, Cornell University, US

Jose Miguel Rubio Iglesias, European Commission, DG Research

Katrin Vohland, Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

Lucy Robinson, Natural History Museum London, UK

Malene Bruun, European Environment Agency, Denmark

Muki Haklay, University College London, UK

Marisa Ponti, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

The conference committee has elaborated a programme sketch and fundraising strategy to hold an international conference on Citizen Science and Open Science in May 2016 in Berlin. A festival of Citizen Science activities for practitioners and the public is planned to accompany the conference event tailored to policy-makers and academic researchers. A conference committee with European and international experts has been founded and holds regular meetings, the agenda is taking shape and funding commitments haven been received.

Pledged Cash Contributions for the 2016 ECSA conference amount to 46.000 Euro so far (fundraising undertaken by Lucy Robinson, Muki Haklay, Marisa Ponti, Susanne Hecker/ Aletta Bonn):

- Natural History Museum of London – 5.000
- Natural History Museum of Paris – 5.000
- Museum für Naturkunde Berlin – 5.000
- Austrian ministry Top Citizen Science programme – 5.000
- UCL – 5.000
- Natural History Museum of Maremma – 1.000
- UFZ/iDiv – 5.000
- EarthWatch Institute UK - 5.000
- IZW – 5.000
- IGB – 5.000
- Pending proposals with German research council and Finish Environment Agency; Elsevier might want to get involved if approved by ECSA
- Some travel funding pledged for speakers by EU Commission / EEA

ECSA Events

Citizen Science and Policy Interface Workshop, Leipzig - April 2015

From 27th to 29th of April 2015 twenty nine international Citizen Science representatives from European natural history museums, international research institutions and universities as well as from the European Environment Agency joined of the European Citizen Science Association (ECSA)/ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ | iDiv workshop in Leipzig to collect evidence for the integration of citizen science in policy, science and society and to foster the network of Citizen Science Associations, initiatives and actors. Representatives of the three Citizen Science Associations in Europe, the United States and Australia intensified their networks and discussed ideas for future international collaborations. A joint paper is in progress. For more information see the [ECSA Blog](#).



Communication Working Group Workshop, Zürich, May 2015

On the 27th of May 2015 nine members of the Communication Working Group met in Zurich at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zurich to discuss the communication within ECSA and to non-ECSA-members. Josep Perelló volunteered to prepare the ECSA General Assembly in October in Barcelona, and Pia Viviani volunteered to work as head of the Communication Working Group until the ECSA GA. It was decided to facilitate communication by the use of social media platforms. Florian Heigl and Daniel Dörler volunteered to do the social media work for ECSA. An ECSA Instagram page was installed to show citizen science activities in Europe on the Instagram map. It was decided to create an ECSA Facebook page which is visible to the general public later in the year. This Facebook page was created in course of the preparation for the ECSA General Assembly. To further facilitate communication within ECSA closed Facebook groups will be established.



ECSA Exhibition and Workshop at EU Green Week, Brussels, June 2015

In June, we were invited to both exhibit and present at the European Union Green Week on Nature and Biodiversity. We were given an international platform to demonstrate Citizen Science Programmes and set out an interactive programme which attracted a large audience able to take part in a real time Citizen Science project based at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna Austria.



European Union Seminar at EC, Brussels, October 2015

In October ECSA were invited to present to EU Policy staff at a specially arranged seminar to inform them about the growing Citizen Science community across Europe, the role it can play in supporting and developing environmental policies and to show case some of the best examples of Citizen Science programmes covering air quality and biodiversity.

General Assembly, Barcelona, October 2015

Josep Perelló from the University of Barcelona has volunteered to be the local host and organizer of the ECSA General Assembly 2015 in October in Barcelona. The Barcelona City Council and the Barcelona Citizen Science Office have acted as main sponsors of the event. Local ECSA members, especially Dacha Atienza from the Natural History Museum, Jaume Piera from the Marine Science Institute of the CSIC along with Luigi Ceccaroni from 1000001 Labs, Bernat Claramunt from CREAF, Frederic Bartumeus from CREAL and others – have supported the organization and contributed to essential parts of the programme as well as to hosting the conference. In addition to the formal member plenary and committee meetings, the General Assembly has been enriched with a more community-oriented programme including a Citizen Science Safari with live demonstrations of local projects and a Citizen Science Project Fair with poster and demonstrator exhibition and project presentations. A public Round Table Discussion is facilitating exchange between the local public and the network of European and international Citizen Science experts that ECSA brings together. As a third focus, a workshop on Citizen Science data and web services has been implemented to expand on the work of the *Data, Tools and Technology* Working Group as well as to link ECSA's initiatives in this area to other relevant networks and standardization initiatives in the USA. Supported by Arne Berre, Seven Schade, Jaume Piera and Luigi Ceccaroni, an ENVIP' 2015 workshop and call for papers has been integrated to the General Assembly programme to deepen this work.

Communication & Outreach

ECSA Contributions to Conferences & Workshops

We are committed to building a decentralized organisation pooling the diverse bodies of knowledge and capacities of our members. We also believe in flat hierarchies as well as in the drive and experience of our members, who are renowned experts in their respective fields. And we seek to use our resources in an intelligent way considering the environment. Therefore we try to send to most adequate representative of ECSA to each event to which we are invited. Members are encouraged to represent the association in public. They receive a briefing and communication material from Headquarters.

Citizen Science Session at Eusea Annual Conference, Belgrade, May 2015

– by *Andrea Sforzi, Thorsten Witt*

I was invited to present ECSA at [The Eusea Annual Conference 2015](#) in Belgrade, arranged by the Belgrade Science Festival at the Yugoslav Film Archive. Eusea is the platform to exchange experiences about the organization of informal learning events in Europe such as science - or research, technology - festivals, weeks, days, summer or night of research. Furthermore, it developed into a platform on science communication, of dialogue between citizens and science with various formats like Science engagement activities.

The potential links with ECSA are hence quite numerous, and I was asked to explain what is Citizen Science, how it works and how our association can collaborate with Eusea in the future.

The programme for 2015 covered a range of topics, based on the developing scene for science communication events. EUSEA members were invited to bring their own YouTube films for a short Science Film Festival, story-telling and citizen science in various forms have been other subjects on the agenda.

The Citizen Science session was carried out by myself ("What is Citizen Science" - Andrea Sforzi, Maremma Natural History Museum, Italy) and Thorsten Witt - Wissenschaft-im-Dialog ("Using Internet for Citizen Science" by experiences of "Bürger schaffen Wissen"). The following discussion was very stimulating and the Eusea members participated with great interest.

The next step will be to find a way to keep the two associations in contact and, possibly, organize a common event. The 2016 Citizen Science International Conference in Berlin could be a potential good opportunity for that. I am working on the subject in the framework of the organizing committee.

Presentation at ECSITE Annual Meeting, Trento, June 2015

- *Claudia Göbel, Muki Haklay, Lucy Robinson*

Keynote at Open Science Conference, Brussels, June 2015

- *Johannes Vogel*

ECSA Chair and director of the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Prof. Johannes Vogel, was invited to hold the keynote at the EC conference "Opening up an Era of Innovation" (23-23 June, Brussels). He explained how Citizen Science can be linked to the [Open Science agenda presented by Commissioner Carlos Moedas](#) ([video here](#), keynote starts at 51:40 mins., [presentation here](#)).

EPAnet Meeting, Copenhagen, June 2015

- *Katrin Vohland, Muki Haklay, Jaume Piera*

The EPAnetwork established a Citizen Science Task Force. The ECSA members present reported on the growing Citizen Science community and institutionalization of ECSA, the added value for policy making and presented examples. In the discussion, continuous exchange of expertise was decided in order to increase acceptance in the EPAnetwork as well as to support Citizen Scientists' activities.

ICCB-ECCB Session, July 2015

- *Aletta Bonn, Anett Richter*

Co-organisation of Citizen Science Session '**Science-Society Dialogue – From Citizen Science To Co-Design**' at the ICCB-ECCB conference in Montpellier with 6 talks from ECSA members, including ECSA working group leaders Muki Haklay, Lucy Robinson and Marisa Ponti.

For more info see the [ECSA blog](#).

GFÖ Session, August 2015

- *Florian Heigl, Aletta Bonn, Johann Zaller*

Organisation of Citizen Science Session '[Citizen Science in Ecology - successful scientific case studies from Europe](#)' at the 45th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland August 31st to September 4th, 2015 in Göttingen, Germany, with talks and posters. This may lead to CS GfÖ working group.

ECSA Presentation at ICT2015, October 2015

- *Stratos Arampatzis*

ECSA Communication

Homepage

ECSA has improved its website in a series of small steps during the last year of operation. The most significant ones are the creation of members' profiles in the backend facilitating the administration of membership application solely through the webpage, the implementation of a more modern and dynamic theme in accordance with the ECSA design concept, and the creation of an ECSA blog reporting on activities and events. A concept for the roles and rights management for the members' profiles which is necessary before making profiles public is in preparation. A data policy concept has been elaborated and needs to be implemented. Individual members are now also displayed on the website. In addition to technical improvements, the content provided on the webpage has been consistently enriched.

Newsletter & Social Media

Monthly newsletters are being sent out continuously. The list of subscribers has been significantly extended and the style of the newsletter modernised. Florian Heigl and Daniel Dörler volunteered to do the social media work for ECSA. Social Media channels have become an important way of communicating within a group of people with same interests. They are easy to use, easy to maintain and very cost effective. The European Citizen Science Association currently uses Instagram to display Citizen Science activities of its members around Europe.

For the ECSA General Assembly we would like to widen the ways of communication within ECSA and to stakeholders outside ECSA. To achieve this we set up a Facebook page that allows all members of ECSA to post their activities in the ECSA timeline. The posts are moderated by us to avoid mischief or unwanted spam. To further facilitate communication within ECSA closed Facebook groups will be established later this year.

Links:

<https://instagram.com/europeancitizenscience/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ECSAcommunity>

Online collaborative workspaces

The ECSA Headquarters has created and maintained several online tools for remote collaboration and project management, including:

- web conference software Adobe Connect with spaces for each Working Group, the Steering Committee and event specific ones;
- Basecamp account for sharing documents and project managements for the Steering Committee;
- Mailings lists for the Steering Committee and for all members;
- Dropbox account with promotion material and presentation templates;
- GoogleDocs folder for the Steering Committee.

Print material

The Museum für Naturkunde Berlin has facilitated the design and printing of ECSA flyers, posters and key documents for promotion.

International Cooperation

The Memorandum of Understanding between ECSA and CSA has been slightly adapted and approved by the CSA Board at the CitSci conference in San Jose. ACSA is in the process of formalizing their governance structure and preparing the adoption of the MoU.

ECSA Presentation at CSA Conference in San José, US

Katrin Vohland, Claudia Göbel and Susanne Hecker wrote a [blog post](#) on the impressions from the first international Citizen Science conference, assuming a high potential for mutual learning and cooperation between CSA and ECSA.



ECSA Presentation at ACSA Conference in Canberra, Australia

Jaume Piera and Luigi Ceccaroni represented ECSA's Steering Committee at the Australian Citizen Science Conference 2015 and Fenner Conference on the Environment dedicated to maximising the capacity of citizen science for science and society, in Canberra, July 23-25, 2015. The purpose of this conference was to bring together the Australian citizen-science community to share skills and ideas and encourage collaboration. You can download the proceedings, which include abstracts for all of the speed talks and poster presentations here. Jaume presented his vision about "Who is using my data? - Methods for data tracking in citizen science". Luigi led the workshop on data collection and management; and was a member of the panel which steered the discussion about the many forms of citizen science. Of special relevance was the liaison among ECSA, ACSA and CSA about the creation of a common Data and Metadata Working Group, in which the co-leads are Anne Bowser (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars & University of Maryland) and Greg Newman (Citsci.org & Colorado State University); the lead ECSA liaisons are Jaume Piera (Spanish National Research Council) and Luigi Ceccaroni (100001 Labs); and the lead ACSA liaisons are Peter Walsh (University of Tasmania) and Peter Brenton (Atlas of Living Australia). The purpose of this working group is to support, advance, and facilitate data interoperability among citizen science projects and data repositories and promote collaboration in citizen science via the development or improvement of international standards for data and metadata.



Inter-Associations Working Group

To ease communication between the global Citizen Science associations, an inter-association working group has been created with an association mailing list.

Joint Working Group on Metadata Standardization

The Citizen Science Association (CSA) is working towards the [establishment of a standard for sharing citizen science project metadata](#). Such an agreement on a common set of information to be shared across platforms aims at facilitating the documentation of citizen science projects, exchange of information between projects and with the general public as well as research on citizen science.

Four prominent repositories of CS data in the US are carrying forth these efforts - [SciStarter](#), which helps projects recruit volunteers, [CitizenScience.org](#), which supports professional networking between citizen science practitioners, [Citsci.org](#) that supports projects by providing a technical

infrastructure for data management, and [the Wilson Center](#), which focuses on projects supported by U.S federal agencies. On 9-10 July 2015, they met for a [Citizen Science and Crowdsourcing Metadata Workshop](#) hosted by the Wilson Center's Commons Lab. Results for the workshop include an agreement on 30 core fields describing citizen science project metadata listed in the [workshop summary](#).

ECSA is actively involved with these efforts through our working group on "Data Tools and Technology". Citizen science data infrastructures and web services are one of the strategic areas of our cooperation with CSA and ACSA (see the [Memorandum of Understanding](#)). Being ECSA members, Anne Bowser and Elizabeth Tyson from the Wilson Center's Commons Lab will also present at the ECSA General Assembly, where they will feed in their perspective on the above mentioned developments into the data infrastructure and web services [workshops on Thursday and Friday](#).

Joint Response to Nature Editorial

The recent *Nature* editorial "[Rise of the citizen scientist](#)" sparked lively discussions in the global citizen science community. The piece reports on the growth of citizen science and acknowledges the valuable contributions citizen scientists have been making to research and monitoring. Alongside this positive appraisal of citizen science activities, however, the editorial closes by raising concerns about the motivations of citizen scientists and asks for scrutiny to prevent potential conflicts of interest with the values involved in doing science.

ECSA has so far responded in a number of ways: In a [blog post](#), the Steering Committee endorses the argument put forward by Prof. Muki Haklay that science and citizen science must be treated symmetrically - both are carried out by people with personal motivations and interests, but both rely on the scientific method for objectively evaluating claims about the empirical world. We have also teamed up with members of the international [Citizen Science Association](#) and the [Australian Citizen Science Association](#) to respond with a joint [Letter to the Editor](#). While not accepted for publication in the journal itself, the letter is now posted as [a direct response to the article online](#) – as are many other thoughtful comments from various viewpoints. The comment thread is still open. Quality in citizen science and its relations to other forms of research is a matter for continuing discussion in the European and international community of practitioners, one that ECSA is looking forward to nurture. This [thread on ResearchGate](#) opened up by Dr. Andrea Sforzi, ECSA Board member, is one first opportunity to share your perspective.

ECSA Finances

ECSA Proposed Budget 2015

PLAN	Date: 27.10.2015
	Plan
Expected Income	16.490,00 €
Rest 2014	5.490,00 €
Donation	5.000,00 €
Membership fees	6.000,00 €
Expenses	16.490,00 €
Travel Headquarter & Gremia	3.000,00 €
Workshop Communication Committee	1.500,00 €
Workshop Policy Committee	1.500,00 €
Workshop Principles Committee	0,00 €
Workshop Technology Committee	0,00 €
Fees for registration etc.	190,00 €
Webpage development	800,00 €
Flyer, printed material	500,00 €
Consultancy for Bid writing	8.000,00 €
ECSA Events	1.000,00 €
Balance	0,00 €

Estimated income is the rest from 2014 as well as membership fees. Expenses refer to travel costs, the workshops not done yet as well as consultancy support for bid writing. Currently, the account is in the minus but can be buffered by the MfN, and we try to receive a donation.

List of in-kind contributions

As a young NGO, ECSA is active in various ways to secure funding for its operation. We are proud that in 2015 our members provided key support to the association. We list a selection of them here:

Museum für Naturkunde Berlin

ECSA Executive Board – ECSA Chair Prof. Johannes Vogel, ECSA Vice-Chair Dr. Katrin Vohland
ECSA Headquarters – Claudia Göbel, half time position as scientific coordinator, support by Stefanie Pass, office space, administrative support, design support, travels, print materials, website hosting, administration and development, etc.
Writing and administering research proposals

MHNM Maremma

1 Museum Director - Steering Committee in-kind work for web conference participation and docs consultation/writing: 50h

1 Museum Director - Leipzig workshop in-kind work for meeting, developing conceptual documents, etc.: 40h

1 Museum Director - in-kind work on ECSA formal documents and presentations: 30h

1 Museum Director - in-kind work for preparing, participating and coordinating a citizen science session at the Eusea annual meeting: 40 h

Total in-kind contributions: € 2500

NHM London

Travel, accommodation and subsistence at ECSA GA in Barcelona: approx. 500 Euro

Staff time to attend GA and coordinate working group: approx. 3,200 Euro

iDiv/UFZ

The ECSA/iDiv Citizen Science and Policy Interface Workshop, Leipzig - April 2015 was funded by UFZ/iDiv with 12K Euro (cash) and in-kind contributions of room rental.

UFZ/iDiv contributed in-kind time of 20% research associate and 5% professor for ECSA activities

100001 Labs (October 2014 - September 2015)

Member of ECSA Board of Directors – Luigi Ceccaroni (1008 €)

Staffing, office space, travels (480 €)

Writing research proposals (504 €)

CSIC

CSIC will organize the Workshop “Citizen Science - Data and Service Infrastructures” as an extension of the General Assembly at the Institute of Marine Sciences, covering all the organizations expenses (room rental, food and beverages for the coffee break).

CSIC will contribute with 500 euros (cash) to support the organization of the general assembly.

CSIC contributed in-kind time of 15% Tenured Scientist and 5% ICREA professor for ECSA activities.

Imperial College London

Member of ECSA Board of Directors – Zen Makuch

Participation in Policy Working Group – David Slawson

Participation in Communication Working Group – Poppy Lakeman Fraser

Demonstration material for Brussels events

KempleyGREEN

The consultancy has provided extensive staff time during the year to run the ECSA Policy Group, to co-ordinate major EU events at EU Green Week and the October lunchtime seminar and to set up meetings with policy staff in the Commission.

BOKU University Vienna

Workshop Zurich: 2 research assistants: 80 hours of in-kind work for meeting, writing of concept, establishing social media platforms for ECSA

Green Week Brussels: 2 research assistants and 1 professor: 110 hours of in-kind work for preparations, presentation and hosting of ECSA stand at Green Week

Total in-kind contributions: 6055 €

CETAF

Member of ECSA Board of Directors – Ana Casino

Foundation Science et Cité

Inter-rim Working Group Chair – Pia Viviani

Hosting and catering form ECSA Communication Working Group Meeting in Zurich

University of Antwerp

Roeland Samson, travel and participation in Green Week exhibition and workshop, EU Seminar

University of Barcelona

Organization of the ECSA General Assembly 2015

ECSA bids**Pending:****Horizon 2020**

The bid initiated by Muki Haklay, UCL, is meant to support the idea of citizen science, to bring together different communities, especially DYI, to test various formats. ECSA is asked to take the lead for the work package supporting policy and will contribute to capacity building and communication. Claudia Göbel contributed the key elements for ECSA.

On invitation of IIASA, ECSA supported by Katrin Vohland is a partner in a H2020 bid for SC5-17-2015 - Demonstrating the concept of 'Citizen Observatories' and would be responsible for the citizen science approaches and reflections upon it.

COST Action

The bid is meant to support a Pan-European network connecting proposers from a range of disciplinary domains. The main aim of the Action is to bundle capacities across Europe to gauge the potential of citizen science as enabler of social innovation and socioecological transition. Marisa Ponti was a main driver, together with Katrin Vohland and Claudia Göbel.

Rejected:

On invitation of the Leiden Museum ECSA was invited as partner in a Research and Innovation action.

On invitation of the University of Reading ECSA was invited to contribute to a Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability and Social Innovation.